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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

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July 11, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe
Director of Public Works

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN – ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

Public Works continues to coordinate the implementation of the Los Angeles River Master Plan (Master Plan) as adopted by your Board on June 13, 1996. We currently chair the Master Plan Advisory Committee on a bimonthly basis and participate in the planning, review, and design of all projects that impact the river right of way. Attachment A is a list of project updates for each Supervisorial District within the Los Angeles River jurisdiction.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or your staff may contact Diego Cadena at (626) 458-4008.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Regional Planning

ATTACHMENT A

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS IN EACH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

All Supervisorial Districts

Assembly Bill 1147 (AB 1147), which was approved in September 2000, proposes that the County of Los Angeles receive a partial reimbursement for the funding spent on the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project. To qualify for the reimbursement, the County of Los Angeles is required to prove that the LACDA project is a multipurpose effort and to work with an AB 1147 Advisory Group to adopt a plan for undertaking restoration projects along the Los Angeles River and related tributaries. We are actively pursuing legislative actions that will fund both the LACDA reimbursement through AB 1147 and other Los Angeles River Master Plan efforts.

In the past year, Public Works worked with State representatives to verify that the LACDA project is multipurpose. We also continue to maintain and upgrade the web-based listing of projects within the Los Angeles River Watershed developed with assistance from the AB 1147 Advisory Group.

Public Works continues to hold Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings where interested stakeholders can learn about efforts and programs that impact the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. In the past year, through the Advisory Committee meetings, stakeholders have been able to take advantage of opportunities to learn and teach others about topics such as:

- The Plant Profiler Database developed by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council
- The I-710 Major Corridor Study being developed by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Public Works continues to provide support to stakeholders seeking funding for river-related efforts. Additionally, Public Works reviews proposals and coordinates the issuance of permits and Use Agreements for projects consistent with Los Angeles River Master Plan (Master Plan) efforts. For information about specific efforts, by Supervisorial Districts, see below:

First Supervisorial District

Public Works completed 60 percent design plans for the Elysian Valley River Access Improvements using input gathered from community outreach events coordinated with support from the City of Los Angeles.

Public Works will begin construction of the Los Angeles River Riverfront project, which combines two efforts formerly known as the Bell and Cudahy Riverfront projects, in July 2006. On May 4, 2006, the Ninth Annual Los Angeles River Master Plan Earth Day event was held at the site as a groundbreaking for construction of the project.

In the past year, we have worked with interested community members, neighborhood groups, and other local entities on projects in various stages of readiness including:

- Maintenance of the river corridor from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive in the City of Los Angeles by the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council and its associated Neighborhood Watch.
- The Revisit the Red Car mural completed by Friends of Atwater Village at Glendale Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles through a grant from the City of Los Angeles' Operation Clean Sweep Program.
- Maintenance of cat face murals painted by Leo Limon at various locations in the river from Knox Avenue to Oros Street in the Elysian Valley community of the City of Los Angeles.
- Development of enhanced bikeway entrances at both Southern Avenue and Hollydale Park in the City of South Gate through a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Public Works continues to participate in the City of Los Angeles' Los Angeles River Department Task Force and related executive meetings to ensure that proposed developments do not conflict with Master Plan interests. In the past year, we have primarily offered informational data to both the City of Los Angeles and their consultant team for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan.

Public Works continues to provide support to stakeholders seeking funding for river-related efforts. In the past year, we expressed support for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks in their application for funding greenway connections along various reaches, including the Glendale Boulevard to Fletcher Drive reach, through the California River Parkway Grant Program.

The City of Los Angeles, in partnership with an Administrative Oversight Committee and a Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee, is in the process of prioritizing projects for funding in the Proposition O 2005 Fall Funding Cycle. Of the 13 high-priority projects currently under review, two fall within Master Plan reaches. Of those two, one falls within the First Supervisorial District – the Oros Green Street project being led by North East Trees. The Oros Green Street project involves the installation of bioretention tree boxes along Oros Street and a belowground infiltration trench at Steelhead Park in the Elysian Valley community of the City of Los Angeles.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority completed Marsh Street Park in May 2006. The project provided a new access point to the Los Angeles River with passive and active recreation features, picnic areas, and stormwater improvements.

Second Supervisorial District

In the past year, we worked with North East Trees on the development of the South Gate Riparian Restoration project in the City of Lynwood.

Third Supervisorial District

Public Works completed 60 percent design plans for the Los Angeles River Headwaters Phase I project, which extends between Jordan and Mason Avenues. Design of the bridge over Browns Creek is also underway at this time.

Public Works and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority are continuing to develop the Tujunga Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration project. The conveyance structure to supply water to the stream is complete with landscaping and stream grading scheduled to begin in August 2006.

In the past year, we worked with and continue to work with the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council and its associated Neighborhood Watch on proposals for maintenance of the river corridor from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive in the City of Los Angeles.

Public Works continues to participate in the City of Los Angeles' Los Angeles River City Department Task Force and related executive meetings to ensure that proposed developments do not conflict with Master Plan interests. In the past year, we have primarily offered informational data to both the City of Los Angeles and their consultant team for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan.

Public Works serves on a technical advisory committee for the Tujunga Watershed Management Plan being developed by The River Project through a grant from the CALFED Bay-Delta Authority Watershed Program. Development of the plan will be a 30-month process, which is anticipated to conclude in June 2007.

Public Works continues to provide support to stakeholders seeking funding for river-related efforts. In the past year, we have expressed support for agencies seeking funding through the California River Parkway and the California Cultural and Historical Endowment grant programs. Proposals highlighted in the applications for funding include:

- Greenway connections, submitted by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, along various reaches including:
 - Reseda Park
 - Fulton Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Avenue
 - Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon Boulevard
 - Colfax Avenue to Tujunga Avenue
- North Atwater Park, submitted by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

- Restoration and preservation of the Great Wall of Los Angeles, submitted by the Social and Public Arts Resource Center

The City of Los Angeles, in partnership with an Administrative Oversight Committee and a Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee, is in the process of prioritizing projects for funding in the Proposition O 2005 Fall Funding Cycle. Of the 13 high-priority projects currently under review, two fall within Master Plan reaches. Of those two, one falls within the Third Supervisorial District – the Hansen Dam Recreation Area Parking Lot and Wetlands Restoration project being led by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of developing a detailed project report for efforts to extend the stream, greenway, and related amenities being developed through the Tujunga Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration project north from Van Owen Street to Sherman Way.

Fourth Supervisorial District

Public Works completed California Environmental Quality Act documents for the Dominguez Gap project in January 2006. Final design plans for the project were completed in March 2006 with construction anticipated for August 2006. The project is expected to be completed in July 2007.

Public Works continues to develop concept plans and pursue funding options for the Wrigley Greenbelt site.

In the past year, we expressed support for the City of Long Beach in their application for funding the DeForest Wetlands project through the California River Parkway Grant Program.

The City of Long Beach continues efforts to install signage at the southern entrance to the Los Angeles River Bikeway through a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Fifth Supervisorial District

Public Works serves on a technical advisory committee for the Tujunga Watershed Management Plan being developed by The River Project through a grant from the CALFED Bay-Delta Authority Watershed Program. Development of the plan will be a 30-month process, which is anticipated to conclude in June 2007.

In the past year, we worked with the City of Glendale on their greening effort near Flower Street in the City of Glendale along a portion of the future Glendale Narrows Riverwalk project.